

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required restriction between:

- Group I: Claims 1-9, and 12-14, drawn to a method of molding a flange,
classified in class 425, subclass 591, or
- Group II: Claims 10-11, 15, and 16, drawn to the tape cartridge apparatus,
classified in class 242, subclass 348.

In response Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-9 and 12-14, drawn to a method of molding a flange, classified in class 425, subclass 591 with traverse.

The Examiner bases this restriction on MPEP §806.05 (f), which states that:

A process of making and a product made by the process can be shown to be distinct inventions [and subject to restriction] if either or both of the following can be shown: (A) that the process as claimed is not an obvious process of making the product and the process as claimed can be used to make another materially different product, or (B) that the product as claimed can be made by another materially different process.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to demonstrate that the necessary provisions of MPEP §806.05(f) are met by claims of the present application. The provisions of MPEP §806.05 (f)(A) are not satisfied, as the molding process of independent claims 1 and 5 as claimed is suitable only for forming the tape cartridge hub claimed as part of the apparatus of independent claims 10, 15 and 16. In addition, the Examiner has failed to demonstrate, according to the provisions of MPEP §806.05 (f)(B), that an alternative process exists for making a hub having the features claimed in independent claims 10, 15 and 16.

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